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UNCLAS TRIPOLI 2119

SUBJ: LIBYAN NEWS BROADCAST REFERENCE TO WHEELUS

1. NEWS BROADCAST RADIO REPUBLIC OF LIBYA AT 0730 LOCAL ATTRIBUTED TO UN DIPLOMATS SPECULATION THAT REVOLUTION MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC EVENT IN MIDDLE EAST SINCE JUNE 1967 WAR.

2. BROADCAST ALSO SAID THAT FROM POLITICAL STANDPOINT UN DIPLOMATS BELIEVE COUP MAY STRENGTHEN POSITION ARAB LEADERS WHO SAY PALESTINIAN QUESTION INSOLUBLE EXCEPT BY WAR AND WHO CONSIDER US AND ISRAEL EQUALLY HOSTILE. COUP IS ALL MORE SIGNIFICANT, THEY SAY, BECAUSE LIBYA HAD GOOD PRE-COUP RELATIONS WITH US, THE EXPLOITER AND MAIN CUSTOMER LIBYAN OIL.

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3. FROM STRATEGIC STANDPOINT "SPECIALISTS" AT UN SAID COUP MAY AFFECT WHEELUS AIR BASE. MORE IMPORTANTLY EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN MILITARY COOPERATION MAY ALLOW CREATION EGYPTIAN AIR BASE LIBYA OUT OF RANGE SURPRISE ISRAELI ATTACK UNTIL DELIVERY PHANTOMS.
BLAKE

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